

**Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
Expedited Procedure  
Technology Center 1725**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 10/539,773 Confirmation No. : 4951  
First Named Inventor : Stefan HELGEE, *et al.*  
Filed : December 29, 2005  
TC/A.U. : 1725  
Examiner : Kevin P. Kerns  
  
Docket No. : 038724.56337US  
Customer No. : 23911

Title : Method For Arc Welding of Ductile Cast Iron

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed following the filing of a Request for Continued Examination on February 7, 2008. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed August 7, 2007. Consideration of these amendments and remarks prior to the next action in this application is respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 8 of this paper.